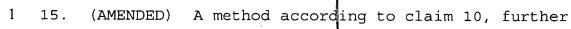
- 7 a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
- 8 which a predetermined power and/of driving pulse is
- 9 supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing
- 10 an image pickup operation immediately in response to a
- 11 release instruction; and
- an image pickup controller which controls a
- 13 preliminary operation for image pidkup if a first condition
- 14 wherein the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and
- 15 the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced
- 16 immediately in response to the release instruction, and a
- 17 second condition wherein all of the plurality of detectors
- 18 detect the contact or approach, are both satisfied.
- 1 2. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
- 2 comprising mode holding means using a non-volatile memory,
- 3 which holds a setup state of the stand by mode set by the
- 4 mode setup unit even during a power-off period.
- 1 3. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
- 2 comprising a mode release unit which releases the stand-by
- 3 mode when the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit
- 4 and a period in which at least one of the plurality of
- 5 detectors does not detect the contact or approach of a hand
- 6 reaches a predetermined time.
- 1 4. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, further
- 2 comprising operation controller which renders a part of the
- 3 plurality of detectors operational, when the stand-by mode
- 4 is set by the mode setup unit and a period in which at
- 5 least one of the plurality of detectors does not detect the
- 6 contact or approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.

- 1 5. (AMENDED) A camera according to claim 1, wherein the
- 2 plurality of detectors are provided at least at a grip part
- 3 and a release button part of a camera body.
- 1 7. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:
- a detector which is provided near a release button and
- 3 detects contact or approach of a hand to make an image
- 4 pickup operation;
- a main power switch which switthes on and off a power
- 6 source of the camera; and
- 7 an image pickup controller which executes a
- 8 preliminary operation for image pickup if a first condition
- 9 wherein the power switch is set on and a second condition
- 10 wherein the detector detects the contact or approach of a
- 11 hand are both satisfied.
- 1 9. (AMENDED) An electronic still camera comprising:
- a plurality of detectors which are provided
- 3 respectively at different positions and which detect
- 4 contact or approach of a hand;
- a mode setup unit which sets up a stand-by mode in
- 6 which a predetermined power and/or driving pulse is
- 7 supplied to an image pickup device, capable of commencing
- 8 an image pickup operation immediately in response to a
- 9 release instruction; and
- an image pickup controller which executes a
- 11 preliminary operation for image pickup if a first condition
- 12 wherein the stand-by mode is set by the mode setup unit and
- 13 the image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced
- 14 immediately in response to the release instruction, and a
- 15 second condition wherein at least one of the plurality of

- 16 detectors detects the contact or approach of a hand, are
- 17 both satisfied.
- 1 10. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic
- 2 still camera, comprising:
- detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera
- 4 body, by a plurality of detectors provided respectively at
- 5 different positions;
- 6 bringing an image pickup system including at least an
- 7 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the
- 8 image pickup system commences an image pickup operation
- 9 immediately in response to a release instruction; and
- executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if a first condition wherein the image pickup system is in the
- 12 stand-by state and the image pickup operation is allowed to
- 13 be commenced immediately in response to the release
- 14 instruction, and a second condition wherein all the
- 15 plurality of detectors detect the contact or approach of a
- 16 hand, are both satisfied.
- 1 11. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the
- 2 preliminary operation is executed if all the plurality of
- 3 detectors detect the contact or approach of a hand.
- 1 12. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 11, wherein
- 2 when detecting, if the image pickup system is in the
- 3 stand-by state and a part of the plurality of detectors
- 4 detects the contact or approach of a hand to make an image
- 5 pickup operation, another part of the plurality of
- 6 detectors starts a detection operation.

- 1 13. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, wherein the
- 2 plurality of detectors are provided at least at a grip part
- 3 and a release button part of a camera body.
- 1 14. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 10, further
- 2 comprising writing a setup of the image pickup system in
- 3 the stand-by state into a non-volatile memory if an input
- 4 for turning off a power source is given.



- 2 comprising releasing the stand-by state when the stand-by
- 3 state is set and a period in which at least one of the
- 4 plurality of detectors does not detect the contact or
- 5 approach of a hand reaches a predetermined time.
- 1 18. (AMENDED) A method for controlling an electronic
- 2 still camera, comprising [steps of]:
- detecting contact or approach of a hand by a detector
- 4 provided near a release button;
- 5 switching on and off a main power source of the
- 6 camera; and
- 7 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if
- 8 a first condition wherein the power switch is set on and a
- 9 second condition wherein the detector detects the contact
- 10 or approach of a hand are both satisfied.

## Please add the following new claim:

M

- -- 20. (NEW) A method for controlling an electronic still
- 2 camera, comprising:

3 detecting contact or approach of a hand to a camera body, by a plurality of detectors provided respectively at 5 different positions; 6 bringing an image pickup system including at least an 7 image pickup device into a stand-by state in which the 8 image pickup system commences an image pickup operation 9 immediately in response to a delease instruction; and 10 executing a preliminary operation for image pickup if 11 a first condition wherein the stand-by mode is set and the 12 image pickup operation is allowed to be commenced 13 immediately in response to the release instruction, and a 14 second condition wherein at least one of the plurality of 15 detectors detects the contact dr approach, are both 16 satisfied. --

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), separate sheets with the rewritten claims marked-up to show the changes made to the previous version of the claims, is filed herewith.

## REMARKS

Please consider the foregoing amendments before examination of this application.

## New claims

New independent claim 20 is similar to claim 10 but recites a different second condition for executing a preliminary operation. This claim is supported, for example, by the description on page 31, line 7 et seq. of the specification.